Stage.5 Angel Hazard vs. Four Angels ④ A Mysterious Person's Catalyst

PARADOX BLUE

WHAT!?
YOU'VE FOUND THE ANSWER TO THE TRIAL?!
SHH! YOU'RE TOO LOUD, KOUDA-SAN!
THOSE GUY ARE STILL WATCH-ING US ...
YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU?
WE CAN FINALLY SAY BYE TO THIS STUPID TRIAL!
WELL YOU KNOW ...
IT WOULD BE REALLY NICE IF EVERY-THING WENT SMOOTH-LY...
.....
BUT TIME IS GOING TO BE A PROB-LEM ...
THE SUN'S ALREADY HALFWAY OVER THE HORIZON. I'M NOT SURE IF WE CAN CLEAR THE TRIAL IN TIME.
YOU HAVE A SET TIME LIMIT.
SON OF MAN, I WONDER IF YOU CAN PREPARE THE CLUES?

SENPAI... ARE YOU STILL THINK-ING..?
.....
UW-AHH!
SOME ONE DO SOME-THING!
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IF YOU NEED TIME, I COULD BE USEFUL, SOUJUUROU.
CAN WE MAKE IT..? EVEN IF WE DID THINGS TWICE AS FAST, WE MIGHT NOT ....

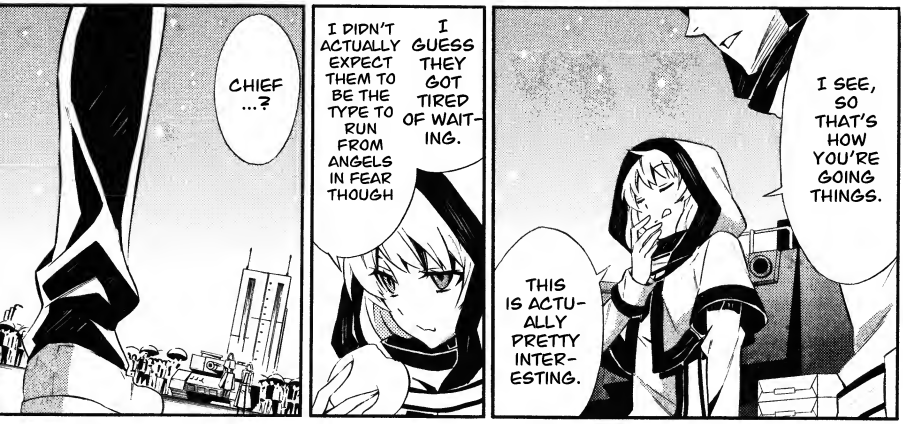
AH! YOU!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN THIS WHOLE TIME?!
!

IZANAMI-SAMA, IT'S DANGEROUS! PLEASE RUN FROM HERE IMMEDIATELY!
IF IT COMES DOWN TO THE TIME LIMIT,
THERE'S NOWHERE THAT CAN ESCAPE DIVINE PUNISHMENT ...
IT'S TOO LATE TO RUN NOW ...
THE ANGELS HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY THOUGHT ABOUT POTENTIAL RUNAWAYS ANYWAY. NO ONE WILL ESCAPE.
SO IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, ALL WE CAN DO IS STRENGTHEN OUR RESOLVE AND PREPARE.
NOT TO MENTION,
WE MAY HAVE MORE THINGS THAN DIVINE PUNISHMENT TO WORRY ABOUT.
HA ...?
WHAT HAPPENED?!
!?
HEY, YOU HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

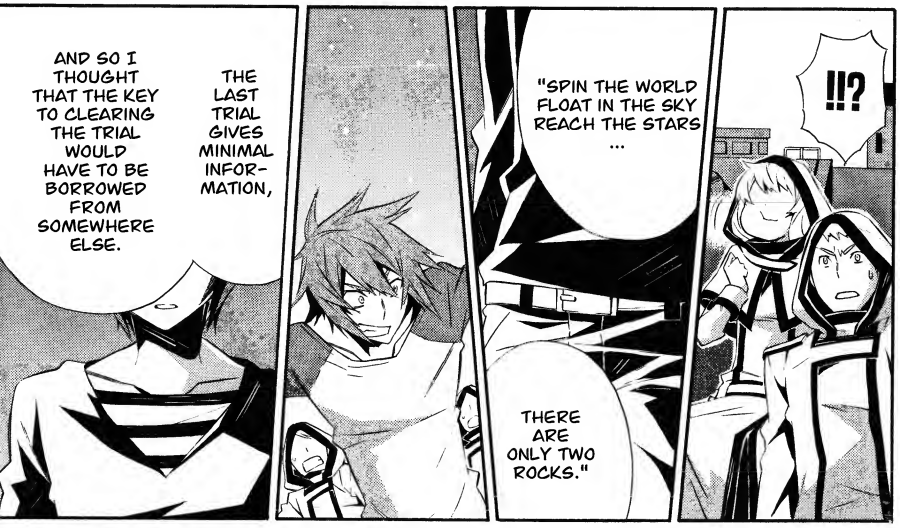
OH, I'M SORRY, DON'T MIND ME ...
My leg kicked unconsciously
YO ...
YOU PUBLIC SERVANTS ARE DOING A GREAT JOB!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THERE'S TWO KIDS TRYING TO ESCAPE!
ARE THESE KIDS IDIOTS? WHY COULDN'T THEY JUST SIT QUIETLY?
AT ANY RATE, WE HAVE TO CATCH THEM!

!!?
WHAT THE ?!
ANNOYING BAS-TARDS, AREN'T YA? WE'RE A LITTLE BUSY RIGHT NOW.
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO END UP LIKE THOSE GUYS, JUST TRY TO TAKE ME DOWN!
AN-OTHER KID ?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE GUYS?!

GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED THEN!
GET THEM!
DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!
I CAN TAKE MY ANGER OUT ON ALL OF YOU!
PLEASE FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
GREAT! WE'LL LEAVE YOU TO BE THE SCAPEGO- I MEAN KEEP GUARD!
……
CHE, THE ONE TIME WE CAN ACTUALLY, BUT WE CAN'T WASTE TIME …
WE'RE REALLY OUTNUMBERED HERE.
……
FUFU- FUFU- FU
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
AGGH !
IS HE SERIOUSLY JUST A KI-
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY'S FIGHTING SKILLS?


CHIEF ...?
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY EXPECT THEM TO BE THE TYPE TO RUN FROM ANGELS IN FEAR THOUGH
I GUESS THEY GOT TIRED OF WAITING.
I SEE, SO THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING THINGS.
THIS IS ACTUALLY PRETTY INTERESTING.

FACED WITH AN IRRATIONAL TRUTH, HUMANS TEND TO ENVISION IMPOSSIBLE THINGS.

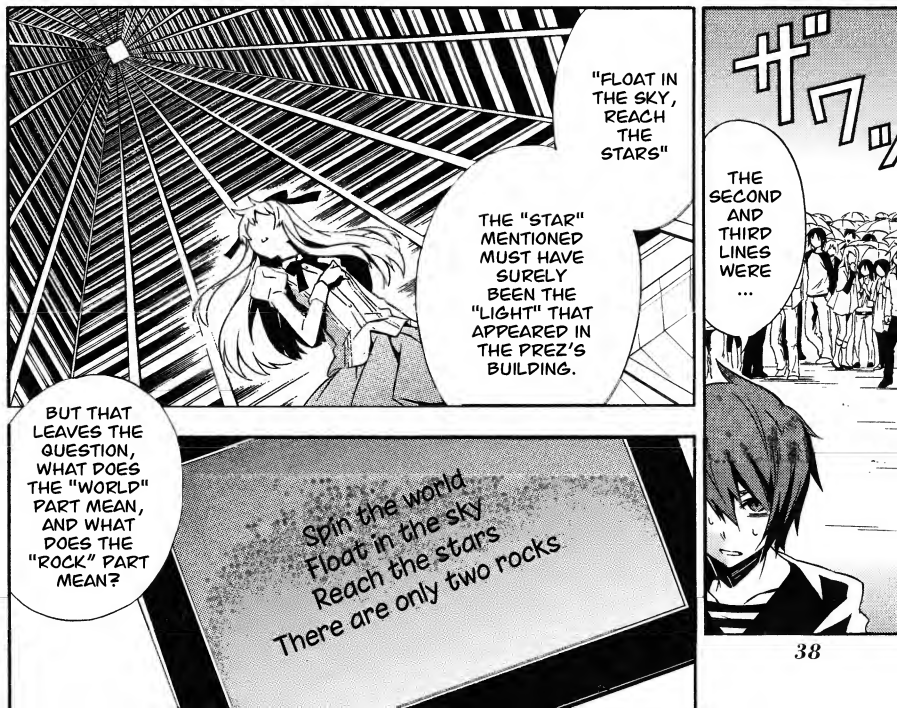

AND SO I THOUGHT THAT THE KEY TO CLEARING THE TRIAL WOULD HAVE TO BE BORROWED FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.
THE LAST TRIAL GIVES MINIMAL INFORMATION,
"SPIN THE WORLD FLOAT IN THE SKY REACH THE STARS ...
THERE ARE ONLY TWO ROCKS."
!!?

BUT THAT WAS ALL A BIG TRAP ...
THIS TRIAL HID THE TRUTH FROM OUR EYES AND MISLEAD US.
ヒューッ

FUFUFU, SO YOU'VE FINALLY MADE YOUR APPEARANCE, MILD MANNERED KID.
IT'S RELATED, THE DANCE OF BLOOD AND FEATHERS. WE'RE HEADED TO THE STAGE
BUT THE WAY THINGS ARE SET UP NOW, WITH YOU STANDING BEFORE US, THAT IN ITSELF IS A PART OF YOUR PREPARATION FOR THE ANSWER TO THE TRIAL, ISN'T IT?
MISTER STUDENT COUNCIL ...
HIJIRI SOUJUUROUKUN?
.....

WELL, ...
AN "ANSWER," YOU SAY?
I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT,
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT AN ANSWER OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THE CODE AT ALL.
OH?
TO GET AN ANSWER, YOU GENERALLY NEED A "RIDDLE" OR SOMETHING TO SOLVE IN THE FIRST PLACE, RIGHT?
HOWEVER, WHAT IF THERE WASN'T A RIDDLE IN THAT MESSAGE?

Spin the world
Float in the sky
Reach the stars
There are only two rocks
IT IS... THE ANSWER ITSELF!
IT IS THE ANSWER TO THIS TRIAL,
THAT WAS SO CARE-FULLY WRITTEN THERE.
THE MES-SAGE DIDN'T HAVE A RIDDLE?
THEN WHAT WAS THE MES-SAGE FOR?
OR HAVE YOU NOT FIGURED THAT OUT YET?


"FLOAT IN THE SKY, REACH THE STARS"
THE "STAR" MENTIONED MUST HAVE SURELY BEEN THE "LIGHT" THAT APPEARED IN THE PREZ'S BUILDING.
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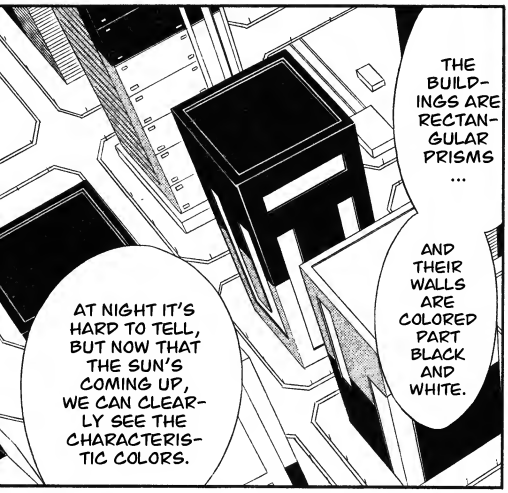
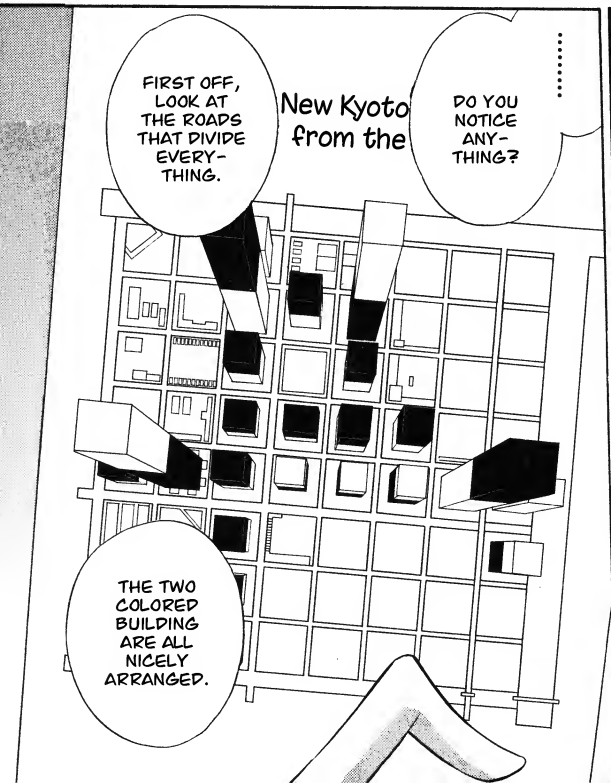
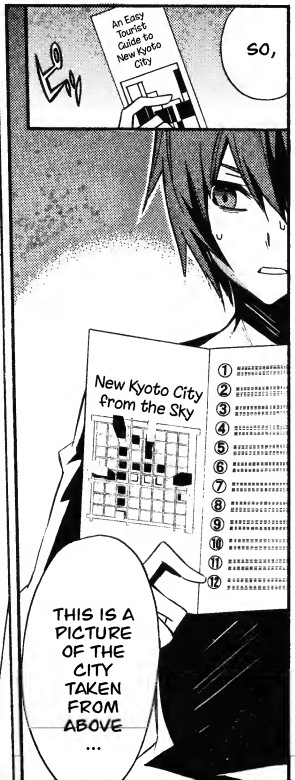
THE SECOND AND THIRD LINES WERE ...
BUT THAT LEAVES THE QUESTION, WHAT DOES THE "WORLD" PART MEAN, AND WHAT DOES THE "ROCK" PART MEAN?
Spin the world
Float in the sky
Reach the stars
There are only two rocks


THE BUILDINGS ARE RECTANGULAR PRISMS ...
AND THEIR WALLS ARE COLORED PART BLACK AND WHITE.
AT NIGHT IT'S HARD TO TELL, BUT NOW THAT THE SUN'S COMING UP, WE CAN CLEARLY SEE THE CHARACTERISTIC COLORS.

AT ANY RATE,
IT'S A LITTLE ODD, ISN'T IT? THIS TOWN, I MEAN ...
?


.....
DO YOU NOTICE ANYTHING?
FIRST OFF, LOOK AT THE ROADS THAT DIVIDE EVERYTHING.
New Kyoto from the
THE TWO COLORED BUILDING ARE ALL NICELY ARRANGED.


SO,
An Easy Tourist Guide to New Kyoto City
New Kyoto City from the Sky
① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩ ⑪ ⑫
THIS IS A PICTURE OF THE CITY TAKEN FROM ABOVE ...

IT LOOKS KIND OF FAMILIAR, DOESN'T IT ...
ALMOST KIND OF LIKE ...
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S A GAME BOARD!
THE ODD SET UP OF THIS TOWN,
WAS MODELED AFTER TABLETOP GAMES!
KIND OF LIKE A GAME BOARD... OR SOMETHING?
T/N: The kanji used when talking about game pieces is "石," which also means "stone, rock, etc.
T/N: Japanese board game, I think was mentioned earlier actually....
A GAME THAT USES BLACK AND WHITE PIECES, SO PERHAPS GO*?
OR MAYBE CHESS?
NO, A BETTER FITTING GAME IS SOMETHING ELSE!
AND THE ROADS DIVIDE THE BOARD UP.
THE BLACK BUILDINGS ARE "BLACK PIECES,"
THE WHITE BUILDINGS ARE "WHITE PIECES."
SO NOW THE QUESTION IS, WHAT GAME IS THIS?

A GAME WHERE YOU COMPETE FOR MORE PIECES ON AN 8X8 BOARD,
WHERE THE PIECES ARE TWO SIDED,
AND THE GOAL IS TO GET YOUR OPPONENT'S PIECES TO FLIP TO YOUR COLOR ...
THE GAME THAT'S POPULAR WORLD WIDE AND HAS RULES THAT EVEN BEGINNER COULD LEARN EASILY, THE NAME OF THAT GAME IS...
OTHELLO !!!
FOR THIS TOWN, WHICH IS SEPARATED 8X8 AND HAS BLACK AND WHITE COLORED BUILDINGS,
OTHELLO IS THE GAME THAT FITS BEST!

THE "RIDDLE" WASN'T IN THE MESSAGE, RATHER, IT WAS THE STATE OF THE TOWN!
SO THIS TOWN IS ACCOMMODATING THE MESSAGE'S REQUIREMENTS ...?
OR IS THAT SIMPLY YOUR GUESS? WAS THE TOWN NOT SIMPLY BUILT LIKE THIS BEFORE THE ANGEL EVER CAME AROUND?
ゴゴゴ
I'M NOT SURE ...
BUT THERE'S NO MISTAKE THAT THE TRIAL INVOLVES THE TOWN.
HAH ... HAH ...
HELLO, PREZ? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
!!
HIJIRI-SEMPAI ?!
PREZ, WE'RE WORKING ON YOUR BUILDING RIGHT NOW!
CAN I ASK YOU TO GET SOME PREPARATIONS DONE PLEASE!?
.....

……
WHEN YOU GET TO THE CENTER OF THE FLOOR …
……
FIRST OFF, I NEED YOU TO COME DOWN TO THE FIRST FLOOR.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T RUN YET, HAVE YOU, HIJIRI-SENPAI?
I THOUGHT SO …
HEL-LOOO ?
UH, PREZ, ARE YOU LISTE-NING?
……
HAH ?
……
……
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IT'S A GIVEN"!! YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN OUT OF YOUR BUILDING, HAVEN'T YOU ?!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN SUCH A DANGEROUS PLACE ?!
WELL, THAT'S SORT OF A GIVEN, ISN'T IT?
HAVEN'T CLEARED THE TRIAL YET, SO YOU'RE STILL TRAPPED IN THE BUILDING.

I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN!
RIGHT NOW WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS YOUR HEALTH!
YOU'VE BEEN BREATHING REALLY HARD SINCE YOU'VE STARTED TALKING!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HAVE YOU BEEN PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD ?!

EVEN IF YOU HELP ME, IT'LL BE TROUBLESOME IF YOU'RE OVEREXERTING YOURSELF!
I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN, SO PLEASE GO BACK AND REST!
.....
I WOULD'VE DONE THAT EVEN IF YOU HADN'T TOLD ME TO.
THE THING IS, WE'VE ALL BEEN PLANNING TO GET US ALL OUT OF OUR BUILDINGS SINCE WE GOT INTO THIS.
!!

T/N: The word he uses is better translated as "playing pretend", so might be more accurate to say that they're "playing" the good guy or super-hero. Wasn't sure how to word that though...)
IT'S ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS TO RISK ONE'S LIFE TO SAVE OTHERS.
BUT RIGHT NOW, WE CAN BE FLEXIBLE, SO WE'RE GOING ALONG WITH YOUR "GOOD PERSON" GAME*.
WELL,
IF IT REALLY GETS DANGEROUS, I'LL JUST RUN AWAY BY MY-
LIAR !!!! !!!!
.....
.....
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUSLY TELLING ME A LIE THAT TRANSPARENT!
JUST HOW MUCH OF AN IDIOT DO YOU THINK I AM !?!
PEOPLE WHO AREN'T GOOD PEOPLE DON'T JUST PLAY ALONG WITH PEOPLE PRETENDING TO BE GOOD PEOPLE!

I'LL JUST RUN AWAY BY MYSELF IF THINGS GET TOO DANGER-OUS.
WHEN-EVER I GO OFF AND DO IM-POSSIBLE THINGS ON MY OWN ...
I'M ALWAYS PRETEN-DING TO BE A NICE PERSON ...
A GOOD PERSON ...
I COULDN'T BELIEVE FOR A SECOND THAT YOU WOULD RUN AWAY BY YOUR-SELF!
THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS STOOD UP IN THE FACE OF DANGER ...
HAS BEEN NONE OTHER THAN YOU, AM I WRONG ?!
Well, What I'm saying is ...

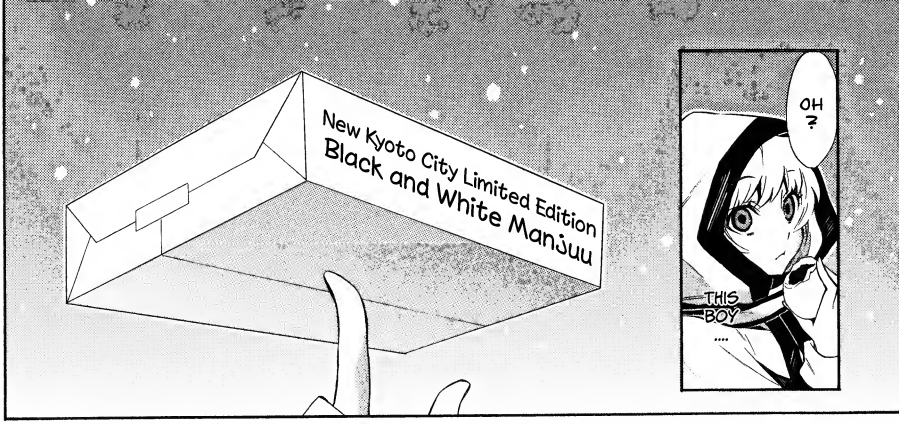
PREZ, WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU IS ...
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
JUST HOW BAD DO THINGS HAVE TO GET BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY RUN AWAY?!
WHAT I'M SAYING IS ...
THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME IS TO STAY AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE CONCERNED WITH EVERY LITTLE THING I DO!
.....
THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH ALREADY JUST HURRY UP AND RUN!!!
PUSHING YOURSELF TO PLAY ALONG WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME MAKES YOU THE BIGGEST IDIOT EVER!

SHUT UP!!! THIS IS REALLY ANNOY-ING, CHRISTIA !!!

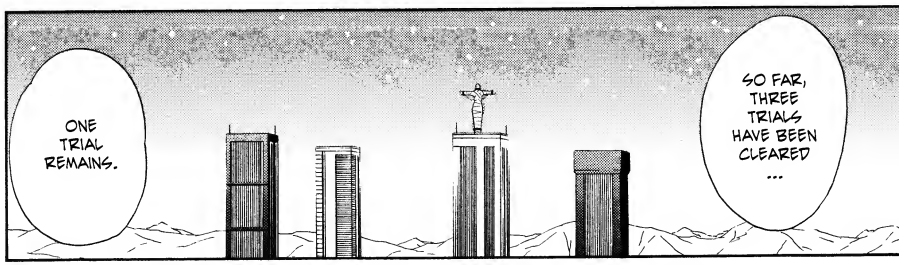
SE-SEN-PAI?
I AM JUST ABOUT FED UP WITH YOUR RIDICU-LOUS-NESS.
I GUESS I WAS JUST BEING A LITTLE TOO NICE ABOUT IT.
YOU HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FROM YOUR POSITION AS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT. I NO LON-GER HAVE TO LISTEN TO WHAT YOU SAY.
EH ..?
FROM HERE ON OUT, YOU HAVE BEEN DEEMED UNWORTHY OF THE JOB.
SE-SEN-PAI?
I'LL BE TAKING YOUR POSITION FROM NOW ON.
EH-
EH?!
HI-JIRI-SAN?
HI-
A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT
HIJIRI SOUJUUROU

I REALLY THINK ...
B-BUT, SEN-PAI,
AND SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT UNDER-CLASSMEN WOULD LISTEN TO THEIR SENIORS, RIGHT?
E-EH-EHH ?!?!
STUDENT COUNCIL "FORMER" STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT
HIMEKAWA BLUE CHRISTIA
WE'RE SHIFTING FOCUS BACK TO CLEARING THE TRIAL.
SINCE YOU NO LONGER HOLD THE TITLE OF "PRESIDENT," YOU'RE NOW JUST ANOTHER UNDER-CLASSMAN.
T/N: Whoa, character development alert...
YE-YES SIR!
NO TALKING BACK, CHRISTIA!
SHUT UP AND DO WHAT I TELL YOU.
COUGH COUGH
OH, IS THE LOVER'S ARGUMENT OVER? MILD MANNERED KID...
.....
THAT WASN'T A LOVER'S ARGUMENT,
IT WAS A NORMAL ONE.

COUGH
COUGH
GEEZ, HAVING TO YELL AT A GIRL IS THE WORST...
.....
HEY, TAKE IT EASY THERE MILD MANNERED KID.
THE SITUATION'S A LOT MORE DANGEROUS THAT YOU THINK.
TETSUO!! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP PLAYING?!
OH, YEAH ...
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
LET'S GET TO CLEARING THE TRIAL!!
New Kyoto City Limited Edition Black and White Manjuu
SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU,
BUT I'LL BE TAKING THIS.



and so begins the final round...



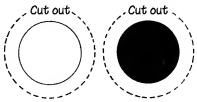
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS?
HOW WILL THEY CLEAR THIS TRIAL?
THE OTHELLO MODELED TRIAL...
WILL THEIRS BE THE CORRECT ANSWER?

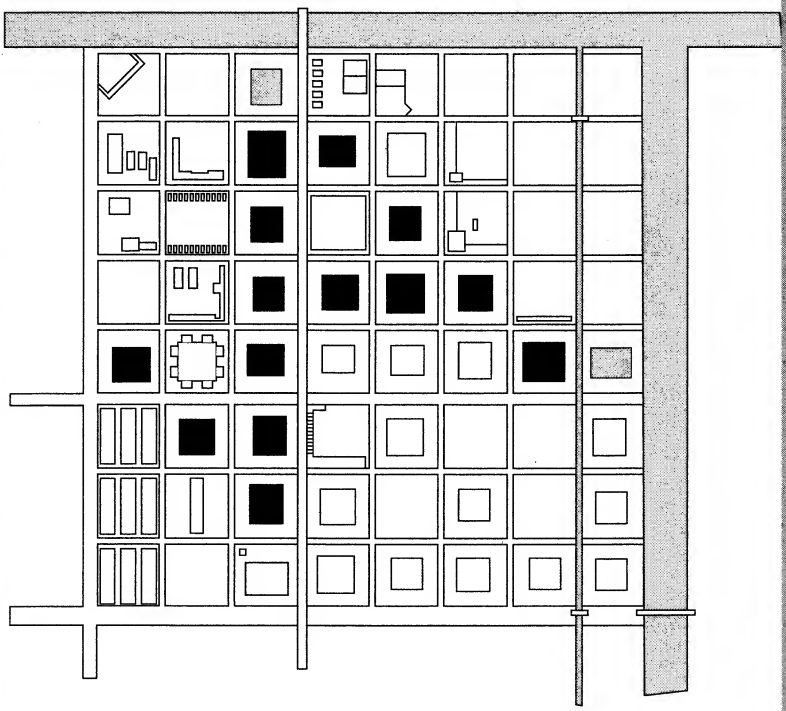
……

KU-
JOU
!!!
New Kyoto City Limited Edition
Black and White Manjuu

DON'T SAY A PERSON'S NAME SO FAMILIARLY.
……
GEEZ …
And so, it's a show-down.

Place the two pieces below on the map,
Guide yourself to the story's ending.





RANT (if anyone bothers to read):

Sorry for the big delay, the translations for this chapter actually came in quite a while ago, but due to being busy, the redrawing wasn't happening, which was holding back the typesetting.

Raws: saotome @Maigo Scans
Cleans & Redraws: flameshaft
Translator: assasin8
Proofreader: flameshaft
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Flame scans